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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/602,278	06/23/2000	Jose R. Brunheroto	BC999047/1455p	9149

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EXAMINER

SALTARELLI, DOMINIC D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/602,278	BRUNHEROTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dominic D. Saltarelli	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but before the filing of a Notice of Appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit or the commencement of a civil action. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 18, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 30-44 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 30-32, 35-42, and 45-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Copriviza et al. (5,319,453, of record) [Copriviza] in view of Echeita et al. (5,826,165, of record) [Echeita].

Regarding claims 30 and 40, Copriviza discloses a system for monitoring quality of service of play out of a video program (col. 3, lines 50-55), the system comprising:

a program source to encode each frame of the video program with a first unique signature that identifies the frame as being associated with the video program (col. 8, lines 16-39); and

the play-out device to compute statistics associated with play-out of the video program (col. 10, lines 35-54).

Copriviza fails to disclose the video program is digital, the program source creates a meta-stream for the digital video program, the meta-stream including a play-out schedule for the digital video program and a length of the digital video program and a prior to play-out of the digital video program, transmit the meta-stream to a play-out device, the play-out device including a signature engine to generate a second unique signature for each frame of the digital video program being played out and a matching engine to compare the second unique signature generated for each frame with a corresponding first unique signature encoded with the frame, compare a time of the play-out of the digital video program with a time specified in the play-out schedule, and compare an actual duration of the

play-out of the digital video program with the length of the digital video program specified in the meta-stream.

In an analogous art, Echeita teaches a system which automatically monitors the quality of service digital video material (col. 4 line 66 – col. 5 line 4) by creating an associated meta-stream that includes a play-out schedule for the digital video program and a length of the digital video program and a prior to play-out of the digital video program, and transmitting the meta-stream to a play-out device (col. 5, lines 4-14), the meta-stream and the digital video program being linked by identifying signature data found in both the digital video program and the meta-stream (common information found in the headers, or “overhead” information, col. 7, lines 37-43), and utilizing the meta-stream in the program play-out device to determine play-out statistics of the program, including play-out time and duration by automatically comparing the measured values versus expected values (col. 8, lines 9-65 and col. 10, lines 42-59), providing the benefit of a system of reduced complexity for monitoring quality of service of video programming (col. 4, lines 53-66).

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclosed by Copriviza to include the video program is digital, the program source creates a meta-stream for the digital video program, the meta-stream including a play-out schedule for the digital video program and a length of the digital video program and a prior to play-out of the digital video program, transmit the meta-stream to a play-out device, the play-out device

including a signature engine to generate a second unique signature for each frame of the digital video program being played out and a matching engine to compare the second unique signature generated for each frame with a corresponding first unique signature encoded with the frame, compare a time of the play-out of the digital video program with a time specified in the play-out schedule, and compare an actual duration of the play-out of the digital video program with the length of the digital video program [specified in the meta-stream], as taught by Echeita, providing the benefit of a system of reduced complexity for monitoring quality of service of video programming. The system of Echeita extracts [generates] a second unique signature for each frame of the digital video program being played out and compares the second unique signature generated for each frame with a corresponding first unique signature encoded with the frame in the section which aligns the overhead information found the "advertisement reconciliation data" with the header information found in the programming itself, where the signatures taught by Copriviza serve the function of identifying frames when modified in view of Echeita.

Regarding claims 31 and 41, Copriviza and Echeita disclose the system and method of claims 30 and 40, wherein the play-out device includes a non-volatile local storage to store the computed statistics (Copriviza, col. 10 lines 49-54).

Regarding claims 32 and 42, Copriviza and Echeita disclose the system and method of claims 31 and 41, wherein the play-out device is operable to run a quality of service application for automatically analyzing the computed statistics (Echeita, col. 10, lines 49-59).

Regarding claims 35 and 45, Copriviza and Echeita disclose the system and method of claims 30 and 40, wherein the program source transmits the meta-stream to a play-out device using an encryption algorithm (Echeita, col. 6, lines 30-62).

Regarding claims 36 and 46, Copriviza and Echeita disclose the system and method of claims 30 and 40, but fail to disclose the digital video program is distributed to the play-out device from the program source in accordance with MPEG-2 compression.

Examiner takes official notice that the use of MPEG-2 compression is notoriously well known in the art as a form of digital video compression.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system and method of Copriviza and Echeita to utilize MPEG-2 compression, an industry standard form of digital video compression.

Regarding claims 37 and 47, Copriviza and Echeita disclose the system and method of claims 30 and 40, but fail to disclose the program source places

the unique first signature associated with a given frame of the digital video program into video image side bands of the frame.

Examiner takes official notice that placing information into video image side bands is notoriously well known in the art, as said placement puts the data in a place where there is no chance of distorting or otherwise interfering with the main video image.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system and method disclosed by Copriviza and Echeita to include placing the unique first signature in the video image side bands of the frame, for the benefit of placing the signature in a video frame region where there is no possibility of distorting or otherwise interfering with the main video image with the signature.

Regarding claims 38 and 48, Copriviza and Echeita disclose the system and method of claims 30 and 40, wherein the program source combines the digital video program and the meta-stream into a program stream to be distributed to the play-out device (Echeita, col. 5, lines 4-14).

Regarding claims 39 and 49, Copriviza and Echeita disclose the system and method of claims 30 and 40, wherein the play-out device is a computer (Copriviza, fig. 1, field receiver 36).

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5. Claims 33, 34, 43, and 44 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Copriviza and Echeita as applied to claims 30 and 40 above, and further in view of Iggulden (6,597,405, of record).

Regarding claims 33, 34, 43, and 44, Copriviza and Echeita disclose the system and method of claims 30 and 40, wherein the program source encodes each frame of the digital video program with a first unique signature (Copriviza, col. 8, lines 16-39), but fail to disclose using a hashing algorithm for the signatures.

In an analogous art, Iggulden teaches using hashing algorithms to produce signatures for video frames, allowing the material to be quickly identified in real time (col. 5, lines 25-36).

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system and method of Copriviza and Echeita to use a hashing algorithm for signature generation, as taught by Iggulden, for the benefit of fast identification of video frames.

Conclusion

6. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

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Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on _____.
(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

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Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dominic D. Saltarelli whose telephone number is (571) 272-7302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DS



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